

The Progressive Farmer.

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A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

What I do and ever shall regret is the time which, while young, I lost in mere idleness and in doing nothing. This is the common effect of the inconsideracy of youth, against which I beg you will be most carefully upon your guard. The value of moments when cast up is immense, if well employed; if thrown away, their loss is irrecoverable. Every moment may be put to some use, and that with much more pleasure than if unemployed.—From Lord Chesterfield's Letters to His Son.

Mr. McQuarrie's letter on page 2 contains some good suggestions about sweet potato growing, but we think his fertilizer theories are rather extreme. On the contrary, we heartily endorse the article reprinted in this number under the title, "The Fertilizer Craze."

We direct especial attention to Entomologist Sherman's advice to wheat-growers who have suffered heretofore from the ravages of the Hessian fly. Farmers who refuse to heed this warning will fly in the face of the proved facts of science and experience. Sow late and avoid the fly.

Secretary Parker and Lecturer Cates are still at work for the Alliance in Edgecombe. "We find no trouble in the world reorganizing Subs," says Mr. Parker. "And we are getting the very best farmers, too." Mr. E. L. Daughtridge is president of one of the Subs organized last week; Mr. W. D. Joyner of another. A fuller reports will be given next week.

Prof. Gerald McCarthy makes some timely suggestions in his letter on crimson clover. It is a great protection to land to have some crop growing on it during winter, and many farmers in Central North Carolina find the grain yield so small as to discourage extensive sowing of wheat and oats. Try crimson clover.

As to our Washington correspondent's notice of cotton growing experiments in Africa, Madagascar and Guiana, we again repeat our conviction that these efforts need not frighten the Southern cotton farmer. Even if the experiments succeed, the increased consumption of cotton goods will undoubtedly keep pace with the increased production of cotton.

Cotton has deteriorated much within the last month. For example, Mr. Jas. H. Pou, who in August expected to make 100 bales on his Johnston County farm, will now be satisfied with 75 bales. Mr. T. B. Parker, who has recently been over a number of cotton-growing counties, says the yield will not be over 75 or 80 per cent of last year's; with an early frost it will be even smaller than this. Two to three weeks late is the report from every section.

So the "exterminators" fail to exterminate, and the boll weevil goes on his way rejoicing. But we do not credit the rumor, which we published last week only as a rumor, that this pest has appeared in Union and Mecklenburg Counties. There is good reason, however, for us to be interested in the plight of our Texas brethren, for thus far the weevil has gone steadily on from one farm to another, and from one county to another, and many fear that, if not checked, it will spread over the entire Cotton Belt. But we believe that our scientists will soon discover some effective way of combating it. The United States Depart-

ment of Agriculture will probably get a special appropriation for this work at the next session of Congress.

Everybody who had the pleasure of hearing Editor Bliss Perry's polished and thoughtful address on "Indifferentism" at Trinity College commencement last June, should procure a copy of the Atlantic Monthly for September, in which the address is printed in full. Mr. Perry is ably sustaining the Atlantic's reputation for literary excellence, and a number of especially interesting articles will appear in the next three or four numbers of the magazine. Price, 35 cents a copy; \$4 a year.

The Smithfield Herald of last week declares that one of our Superior Court judges is soiling the ermine and dishonoring our courts of justice by repeated sprees of drunkenness. This is indeed a serious charge, and if true, the Herald deserves credit for its courage in reporting it. The people of the State cannot afford to tolerate such an offense against common decency as drunkenness in a judge must ever be; reform, speedy and complete, or removal from office, should follow quickly.

The Bulletin of the State Department of Agriculture for May, 1903, has just been put to press by the public printers. It is devoted entirely to an exhaustive discussion of "The Relation of the Cattle Tick to the Cattle Industry," by Dr. Tait Butler, State Veterinarian. This is a matter of vast importance to the agricultural interests of the State, and this bulletin should be widely read, especially in those counties in which the work of tick extermination is being actively pushed. tick extermination is being actively pushed by the Department.

Speaking of Mr. Ashley Horne's advice in regard to holding cotton, we find that there is a general disposition on the part of the farmers to follow it. Since the speculators have been getting from 12 to 15 cents a pound, the producers are not inclined to sell for less than 10. The outlook for a large yield, the South over, is not nearly so bright as it was a month ago. We observe that the Georgia Department of Agriculture last Thursday issued its report, placing the condition in that State at only 69 per cent of a full crop. The Government's figure three weeks ago was 82.

Look over the list of Farmers' Bulletins, on page 3, mark those you wish to read, and ask your Congressman to send them to you. They are free; you pay taxes to have them printed, and you ought to use them as much as possible. The new edition of the "Special Report on Diseases of the Horse," also mentioned on page 3, is another publication of great value to farmers. It is probable that the demand will be so great as to exhaust the supply right speedily, and we advise every subscriber who wishes a copy to apply at once to his Representative. Bear in mind that application must be made to members of the last Congress in districts where the Representative was not re-elected last fall.

Three news notes from the literary world are of especial interest to North Carolinians. First, Dr. Edwin Mims, professor of English literature in Trinity College, has been selected by the very discriminating publishing house of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., to write the biography of Sidney Lanier for its "American Men of Letters" series. Those who know Dr. Mims will rest assured that the firm has not mistaken his scholarship and ability. Another member of the Trinity faculty, Dr. John S. Bassett, professor of history, is preparing a life of Andrew Jackson. Dr. Bassett is not only a careful student and learned as a historian, but he has the dispassionate, judicial temperament so essential in work of this kind.

His book will undoubtedly reflect credit on the State. The third bit of news is that Dr. C. Alphonso Smith, professor of English literature in our State University, has prepared and published a text-book, a first book in grammar, for use in the public schools. We have not seen a copy, but knowing Dr. Smith as we do, we are not surprised to learn that it is a work of unusual merit, and likely to win its way into the schools of many Southern States.

We commend to our readers, and especially to our lady readers, the North Carolina Division of the Sunshine Society—The Progressive Farmer's Sunshine Club. The objects of this Society are entirely praiseworthy, and it has neither admission fee nor annual dues. Each member who joins simply promises to do some act of kindness within a month from his reception. We shall be glad to give Mrs. Ransier's address to any who are interested.

And yet another eminent grandson of North Carolina has been discovered. This time it is Congressman John Sharpe Williams, of Mississippi, who is to be the Democratic leader on the floor of the House this winter. "Mr. Williams," says Congressman Kluttz, "is a grand nephew of the late Louis Williams, of Yadkin County, who for twenty years was a Representative from North Carolina and by his length of continuous service was known as the Father of the House. Mr. Williams' grandfather went from North Carolina and settled in Tennessee. On his mother's side he is a descendant of William Sharpe, of Iredell County, who was a member of the Continental Congress."

THE DRUG HABIT.

There is a world of truth—and most timely truth, too—in Dr. Armstrong's letter in this number on "The Abuse of Drugs by the Laity." The Doctor feels very earnestly the truth of what he says; there is no mistaking the righteous indignation of such sentences as these:

"Rich and poor, wise and foolish, lean and fat, black and white, large and small, sick and healthy, want drugs rubbed in and on them, with needles, injections, by the mouth, by plasters, salves, tablets, pills and tinctures. Finally, I believe the world will be peopled by a race made up of copper stomachs on stilts, with spoons and troughs where they may stand from cradle to grave and guzzle and swill till kingdom come."

And the doctors are not so much to blame as we think. If you feel unwell and the doctor comes and simply tells you to live more temperately, take more recreation, and worry less, you straightway declare that he has not done his duty; that he ought to have stuffed you with medicine. Things have come to such a pass that the doctor is afraid he will lose his practice if he does not leave a dozen prescriptions for each patient.

Worst all, many a man, without consulting any reputable physician, is dosing continually on patent medicines, drugs he knows nothing about, and whose manufacturers know nothing about him—and care nothing, after the money is paid. Some man gets sick. He takes Dr. Smith's Miraculous Pills. He gets well. Ten to one, he recovered in spite of the pills, not because of them. But he attributes the results entirely to the unknown mixture that he swallowed. "Americans," says Dr. Charles W. Eliot, "are curiously subject to medical delusions, because they easily fall victims to that commonest of fallacies: this preceded that, therefore this caused that; or in shorter phrase, what preceded, caused."

The only patent medicines we have ever known to be strikingly successful were those whose makers prescribed certain regulations, regarding diet, sleeping and exercise, to be carefully followed by the patient they were treating. And the observance of these hygienic rules did a hundred times as much good as the medicine itself.